

DELL  
PUBLICATIONS

MAY-JULY

NO. 553

*Back Rowband* Still 10¢  
*The Gals, Arkansas*

The Adventures  
of

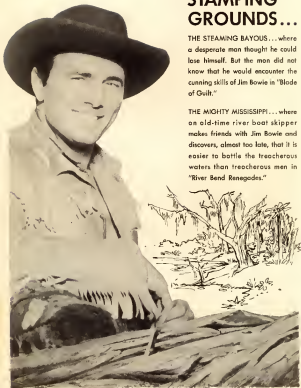
# JIM BOWIE

Somewhere in the  
black bayous  
an avenger stalked...  
wielding his  
**BLADE OF GUILT**

# *Jim Bowie's* **STAMPING GROUNDS...**

THE STEAMING BAYOUS...where a desperate man thought he could lose himself. But the man did not know that he would encounter the cunning skills of Jim Bowie in "Blade of Guilt."

THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI...where an old-time river boat skipper makes friends with Jim Bowie and discovers, almost too late, that it is easier to bottle the treacherous waters than treacherous men in "River Bend Renegades."



THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF

# Jim Bowie

## BLADE OF GUILT

ONE AFTERNOON, A SHADY FIGURE DISMOUNTS HIS HORSE ON A KNOLL, NOT FAR FROM THE BOWIE PLANTATION NEAR SPELLEUSE, LOUISIANA...

THE BOWIE PLANTATION!  
I HAVE COME A LONG WAY  
TO FIND IT!...



THE STRANGER TIES HIS HORSE, WAITING  
FOR NIGHTFALL...

TONIGHT, MONSIEUR  
BOWIE IS GOING TO  
GET A SURPRISE!



THAT EVENING, FOLLOWING DINNER...

HA, THAT WAS THE BEST  
MEAL I'VE HAD IN MONTHS!  
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN  
WHAT HOME COOKING  
TASTED LIKE!



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YOU GOING TO  
STAY A SPELL  
THIS TIME,  
JIM?

COUPLE OF WEEKS, AT  
LEAST! WHEN IS REEZIN'  
COMIN' BACK FROM  
NEW ORLEANS?



THREE DAYS! THEN I'LL HAVE  
TWO OF MY BOYS HOME  
TOGETHER FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN A YEAR!

IT'LL BE GOOD  
TO SEE REEZIN'  
AGAIN...



YOU JUST SIT YOURSELF DOWN  
OUT THERE ON THE PORCH, JIM!  
I'LL BRING YOU A SLICE OF MY  
HOMEMADE APPLE PIE!

MA, THAT'S THE  
BEST NEWS I'VE  
HEARD FOR  
MONTHS!



ON THE PORCH, JIM IS SOMEWHERE HE IS  
BEING WATCHED...



QUINTLY, THE STRANGER MOVES ONTO THE PORCH

NOW JIM BOWIE  
WILL FIND OUT  
WHAT IT IS LIKE  
TO DIE!



AND SUDDENLY... THIS IS FOR PIERRE LE JON!



BUT JIM DEFENDS HIMSELF FROM HIS ASSAILANT'S ATTACK...



...AND GRAPPLES WITH THE WOULD-BE KILLER, TRYING TO TWIST THE WEAPON FROM HIS GRIP...



AT THAT MOMENT...



THAT WAS QUITE A WASTE OF  
A GOOD PIECE OF PIE, MA...  
BUT THANKS!

WHO IS HE,  
JIM? DO YOU  
KNOW HIM?

I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE IN  
MY LIFE... BUT THIS IS MY KNIFE!  
OR AT LEAST IT USED TO BE...



SURELY, AS THE UNCONSCIOUS MAN COMES TO...

YOU'D BETTER START  
EXPLAINING, MISTER...

I EXPLAIN NOTHING TO A  
**MURDERER!**



MURDERER? WHAT  
ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT? AND WHERE  
DID YOU GET THIS  
KNIFE?

YOU **RECOGNIZE**  
IT, EH, MONSEIEUR?  
YOU SHOULD... IT  
HAS THE INITIALS  
J.B. ON THE  
HANDLE!



CERTAINLY! I SHOULD  
KNOW SOMETHING I  
**MADE MYSELF!**

THEN YOU  
ADMIT IT?



I ADMIT NOTHING! I HAVE  
MORE THAN ONE KNIFE LIKE  
THIS... WHERE DID YOU GET  
IT?

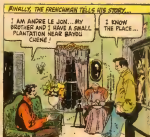
MY BROTHER WAS KILLED  
WITH THAT KNIFE! I SHOULD  
TO KILL YOU THE **SAME**  
WAY!





AND I SWEAR TO YOU I DID NOT KILL ANYONE! MAYBE IF YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, I CAN HELP YOU...

EITHER THAT OR WE TURN YOU OVER TO THE LAW!



FINALLY, THE FRENCHMAN TELLS HIS STORY...

I AM ANDRE LE JON... MY BROTHER AND I HAVE A SMALL PLANTATION NEAR BAYOU CHENE!

I KNOW THE PLACE...



TWO WEEKS AGO MY BROTHER WAS KILLED... WITH THAT KNIFE! I ASKED THE PEOPLE IN BAYOU CHENE IF THEY HAD SEEN IT BEFORE...



AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE SAID IT BELONGED TO JIM BOWNE!

IT DID BELONG TO ME! BUT I DON'T KNOW NOW...



**S**UDDENLY JIM REMEMBERS SOMETHING...

WAIT A MINUTE! BAYOU CHENE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? I GAVE THIS KNIFE TO A FRIEND OF MINE WHO LIVES THERE...



DO YOU KNOW A MAN NAMED ROBERT JAMESON?

JAMESON? OF COURSE! EVERYONE IN BAYOU CHENE KNOWS ROBERT JAMESON! BUT SURELY HE DID NOT DO THIS THING!



ISN'T JAMISON THE MAN WHO PRACTICALLY FOUNDED SAYOUS CREEK?

YES, MA! WHO LOANED MONEY AND GOODS TO ALMOST EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE... HE'S DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BUILD THE TOWN!



MANY OF US STILL OWE HIM MONEY, MONSIEUR... HE IS A VERY PATIENT MAN! HE NEVER ASKS FOR PAYMENT...

NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD KILL!



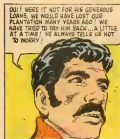
NEVER! I AM SURE OF IT!

AND YET, WHY DIDN'T HE SPEAK UP WHEN YOUR BROTHER WAS KILLED? THIS MAN HAD KNIFE!



I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, MONSIEUR...

DID YOU AND YOUR BROTHER OWE HIM ANYTHING?



OUI! WERE IT NOT FOR HIS GENEROUS LOANS, WE WOULD HAVE LOST OUR PLANTATION MANY YEARS AGO! WE HAVE TRIED TO PAY HIM BACK...A LITTLE AT A TIME! HE ALWAYS TELLS US NOT TO HURRY!



THEN THE ONLY WAY TO FIND THE ANSWERS IS TO ASK ROBERT JAMISON!

JIM! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO TO SAYOUS CREEK NOW?



THIS MAN THOUGHT I WAS  
A MURDERER, HA...OTHERS  
PROBABLY WILL THINK THE  
SAME THING! I HAVE TO  
HELP CLEAR IT UP!

WAIT TILL  
MORNING AT  
LEAST! MR. LE  
JON CAN STAY  
WITH US,  
TONIGHT!



YOU ARE VERY KIND, MADAME BONTE! MUCH  
TOO KIND TO A MAN WHO JUST A FEW  
MOMENTS AGO  
ATTEMPTED TO  
KILL YOUR SON...

JIM'S SAFE, MR. LE JON...  
AND I EXPECT IF ONE OF  
MY KIN HAD BEEN KILLED,  
I'D FEEL THE SAME WAY!



NOW, SUPPOSE I CUT SOME MORE OF THAT  
PIE...THIS TIME, MR. LE JON — I WON'T  
THROW IT AT YOU!



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, JIM AND ANDRE SET  
OUT FOR SAIGON CHINE...

HURRY  
BACK,  
JIM!

I WILL, MA! TELL REZIN I'M  
SORRY I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM!



LATE THE  
FOLLOWING  
MAY,  
ARRIVING  
AT THEIR  
DESTINATION...

DO YOU WISH  
ME TO GO WITH  
YOU INSIDE,  
MONSIEUR?

NO, ANDRE...I'D RATHER TALK TO HIM  
ALONE! IF JAMESON'S INVOLVED  
IN THIS, I DOBT IF HE'D OPEN UP  
IN FRONT OF YOU!





I... I LOST THAT KNIFE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO! WHEN IT TURNED UP AS A MURDER WEAPON, I WAS FRIGHTENED! JIM... BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T INTEND TO GET YOU INVOLVED IN ALL THIS...



I HAVE NO PROOF... BUT I ~~SWEAR~~ I DIDN'T KILL LE JON!



DID YOU HAVE ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE LE JONS? ANYTHING TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOU'D HAVE A MOTIVE?



AS FAR AS I KNOW, I HAVE NO ENEMIES IN THIS TOWN! THE LE JONS WERE ALWAYS GOOD FRIENDS OF MINE! WE HAD NO TROUBLE!



THEY OWE YOU MONEY, DON'T THEY?

MANY PEOPLE OWE ME MONEY! I AM MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING BAYOU CHENE GROW AND PROSPER THAN I AM IN COLLECTING DEBTS! I NEVER PRESS ANYONE FOR PAYMENT AS LONG AS HE WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR TOWN!



YOU SAID YOU LOST THE KNIFE! DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE?

IT WAS HERE... IN MY OFFICE! I DO NOT REMEMBER JUST WHEN IT HAPPENED... BUT ONE DAY IT WAS GONE! ANY ONE OF A HUNDRED PEOPLE COULD HAVE TAKEN IT! —



JAMESON IS INTERRUPTED AS THE DOOR SUDDENLY BURSTS OPEN...

JAMESON, I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND!

SAM CARTER!



YOU TOLD ME THERE WAS NO  
RUSH ON THAT LOAN! SINCE  
YOU FORCE ME, THERE IS  
NOTHING I CAN DO! **WHORE!**

WHAT IS THIS?  
I... I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND!

IT'S THE MONEY  
I OWE YOU!  
BORROWED IT  
FROM MY  
SISTER!

BUT I DIDN'T ASK FOR  
THIS! I MEANT WHAT  
I SAID... THERE AS  
NO HURRY!



YOU... YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T SEND  
YOUR MAN, LAFE, TO COLLECT?

NO... DID  
HE SAY I  
**DID?**

HE CAME OUT TO MY PLACE TWO  
DAYS AGO! SAID YOU WANTED THE  
MONEY! HE TOLD ME HE'D BE BACK  
TODAY FOR IT! PROBABLY OUT  
THERE NOW  
WHEN! BUT  
I WANTED TO  
BRING IT IN  
TO YOU  
PERSONALLY!



THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE,  
SAM! GIVE THIS BACK TO  
YOUR SISTER! I'LL TALK  
TO LAFE AND FIND OUT  
WHAT THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT...

I... I'M SORRY  
I BLEW UP,  
ROBERT! FEEL  
KINDA FOOLISH  
NOW!

FORGET IT, SAM! AND YOU JUST KEEP WORKING!  
THAT LAND OF YOURS... THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF  
TIME TO PRY ME WHEN YOU SELL YOUR  
CROPS!



WAS THIS LIFE  
HE TALKED ABOUT?

HE'S BEEN HELPING ME OUT FOR  
ABOUT SIX MONTHS! YOUNG  
FELLA...GOT A LOT OF SPIT!  
I FIGURED HE'D BE GOOD FOR  
THE BUSINESS! SOMEONE TO  
KIND OF TAKE OVER AS  
I GET OLDER...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND  
WHY LIFE TRIED TO  
FORCE COLLECTION  
...HE KNOWS MY  
POLICY...

IT SOUNDS LIKE  
HE'S TRYING TO  
TAKE OVER A  
LITTLE SOONER  
THAN YOU  
EXPECTED!

THAT EVENING, AS JIM LOOKS OVER THE TOWN...

LIFE, YOU JUST AIN'T LUVIN'  
RIGHT! NEVER SEEN A MAN  
WITH SUCH BAD LUCK!

I'LL GET EVEN...  
YOU JUST WAIT!

YEAH, BUT WARREN  
SOUNDED LIKE HE  
MEANT IT WHEN  
HE SAID YOU GOT  
TO PAY!

I'LL PAY OFF...ALL I  
NEED IS A LITTLE LUCK!  
I COULDN'T HAVE THE  
MONEY TODAY IF THE  
OLD MAN DIDN'T HAVE  
SUCH A SOFT HEART!

LATER THAT  
NIGHT,  
JIM RIDES TO  
THE SMALL  
PLANTATION  
HOME  
OF ANDRÉ  
LE JON...

WON'T'VE BEEN A SOFT AFTERNOON,  
MONSIEUR BONNIE! I DIDN'T THINK  
YOU'D EVER GET HERE!

I'M AFRAID  
I DON'T HAVE  
MUCH NEWS,  
ANDRÉ...

I'M CONVINCED THAT ROBERT JAMIESON KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT YOUR BROTHER'S KILLING! HE CLAIMS HE LOST THE KNIFE SOME TIME AGO!

THEN WE HAVE REACHED, WHAT YOU CALL, A 'BLIND ALLEY'?

MAYBE NOT... IS THERE ANYTHING MORE YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT THIS? WHERE WERE YOU WHEN PIERRE WAS KILLED?

HERE — ASLEEP IN BED! THE MEN FROM TOWN ROSE OUT THAT NIGHT TO TELL ME ABOUT IT! THEY FOUND PIERRE'S BODY IN AN ALLEY IN TOWN!



PIERRE WAS YOUNGER THAN I, MONSIEUR... WE HAD MORE INTEREST IN WHAT YOU CALL THE 'NIGHT LIFE'! HE OFTEN WENT INTO BAYON'S CAFE TO DRINK AND TALK WITH FRIENDS...

AND ~~STAYED~~ PERHAPS?

A LITTLE...NOTHING HE COULD NOT CONTROL! HE WAS A GOOD MAN, MONSIEUR — A HARD WORKER! WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?



IF HE'D WON A LOT OF MONEY THAT NIGHT... SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE KILLED HIM FOR HIS WINNINGS! IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! BUT THEY WERE ONLY FRIENDLY GAMES...THE MOST HE EVER WON OR LOST WAS A FEW PIECES OF GOLD...

THE MEN HE GAMBLER WITH... DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?

THERE WERE QUITE A FEW...SLOWSON, FRANKLIN, RALPH PETER, LAPE SUMMERS —





**SHORTLY AFTER LAFÉ HAD LEFT...**

DID YOU TWO GET THAT MISUNDERSTANDING SETTLED? ABOUT THAT COLLECTION?

YES, JIM...YOU SEE, LAFÉ NEEDED A LOAN...



HE HAS A BROTHER IN NEW ORLEANS WHO HAS HAD SOME FINANCIAL SETBACKS! APPARENTLY HE THOUGHT IF HE MADE A BIG COLLECTION FOR ME, I'D LOAN HIM THE MONEY MORE QUICKLY!



I TOLD HIM THAT KIND OF COLLECTION WASN'T NECESSARY! I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP A FRIEND!

THEN YOU LOANED HIM THE MONEY?



OF COURSE! THE BOY'S BEEN LIKE A SON TO ME...WHAT IS IT, JIM? YOU SEEM PUZZLED...

NOTHING, ROBERT...I... MUST HAVE BEEN THINKING OF SOME-THING ELSE!



**BUT LATER, ON THE STREET...**

LAFÉ, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU!

SURE, MR. BOWIE!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF MAN ROBERT JAMESON IS? DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH HE THINKS OF YOU?

SURE I DO! WHAT KIND OF A QUESTION IS THAT?





THEN WHY DID YOU *LIE* TO  
JIM ? YOU BORROWED MONEY  
TO PAY OFF A GAMBLING DEBT !  
WHY DIDN'T YOU ADMIT THE  
TRUTH ?

LOOK, BOWIE... I  
DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN  
TO LECTURES FROM  
YOU ! WHAT I DO  
IS MY BUSINESS !



NOT WHEN IT HURTS A FRIEND OF  
*NAME*... A MAN WHO HAS TRIED  
TO HELP YOU ! I SUGGEST YOU  
TELL HIM THE TRUTH ! IF YOU  
DON'T, I WILL....



*LIFE BECOMES DANGEROUS FOR JIM....*



*HE MAKES A BID FOR FREEDOM....*



DOMINIC AWAY  
WON'T HELP YOU !

DID YOU GET THIS ANGRY  
THE NIGHT YOU HAD A FIGHT  
WITH PIERRE LE JON ?

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT !



HE WON A LOT OF MONEY FROM  
YOU THAT NIGHT, DIDN'T HE ?  
YOU GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT !

NO...







BY THE TIME  
JIM  
RECOVERS,  
LIFE  
IS NOWHERE  
IN  
SIGHT...

DID YOU SEE HIM ?

RUN FAST HERE  
LIKE A SCARED  
RABBIT ! HEADED  
OUT THAT WAY...  
TOWARD THE  
BRIDGE COUNTRY !

AND SHORTLY IN ROBERT JOHNSON'S OFFICE...

...AND I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO  
TELL YOU ALL THIS, ROBERT ! I...  
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU  
THOUGHT OF LIFE !

IT'S SO HARD  
TO BELIEVE...

THE TRUTH  
IS OFTEN  
HARD TO  
BELIEVE,  
ROBERT...

IF ONLY HE'D TOLD ME ABOUT  
IT...THE COURTS ARE SOME-  
TIMES LENIENT, I WOULD  
HAVE STOOD BY HIM...BUT  
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, ISN'T IT ?



I'M AFRAID SO...  
I'M GOING AFTER HIM !

I'M GOING WITH  
YOU, JIM !



I KNOW THERE'S YOURS BETTER THAN  
ANY MAN IN TOWN ! I CAN HELP YOU  
FIND HIM...AS MUCH AS I HATE  
WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, I'M STILL  
ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE !



**SHORTLY, AT THE EDGE OF THE BAYOU...**

ONE OF THE FLAT-BOTTOMED  
BOATS IS GONE, ALL RIGHT!



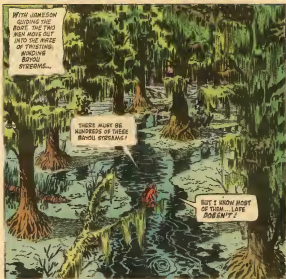
HE CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF  
A HEAD START...LET'S GET  
STARTED!



WITH JAMESON  
GUIDING THE  
BOAT, THE TWO  
MEN MOVE OUT  
INTO THE THREE  
OF TWISTING,  
WINDING  
BAYOU  
STREAMS...

THERE MUST BE  
HUNDREDS OF THESE  
BAYOU STREAMS!

BUT I KNOW MOST  
OF THEM...LATE  
DORSEN'T!



**EACH BRYOU CHANNEL LOOKS THE SAME AS THEY SEARCH FOR THE FLEEING MAN...**

LIKE LOOKING FOR  
A NEEDLE IN A  
HAYSTACK...

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME,  
JIM... LAFE CAN'T POSSIBLY  
FIND HIS WAY OUT OF HERE!

**MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION  
OF THE BRYOU...**

I'VE GOT TO KEEP  
GOING... GOT TO  
GET AWAY...

**HOURS LATER,  
AS THE PANIC-  
STROKEN  
MAN TURNS  
DOWN  
ANOTHER  
BRYOU...**

IT'S BOWIE  
AND  
JAMESON!

**FRANTICALLY,  
LAFE TURNS  
HIS BOAT...**

**BUT JAMESON AND JIM ARE CLOSING IN FAST...**

**STOP, LAFE! GIVE  
YOURSELF UP!**

LIFE TURNS TO FIRE HIS REVOLVER...



BE CAREFUL, ROBERT!  
HE'S RELOADING!



AS THE BOATS ARE ALMOST TOUCHING...



JIM'S KNIFE DISARMS LIFE...



JIM LEAPS TOWARD THE FRIGHTENED MAN.





FINALLY, LAPE'S  
STRENGTH GIVES  
OUT...

AND SHORTLY, THE TWO STARTS THE TRIP BACK TO  
SAYOU CHENE...

I'M SORRY IT ENDED  
THIS WAY, LAPE... I... I  
WANTED TO BE PROUD  
OF YOU!

YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR EVERYBODY  
IN BOYOU CHENE, ROBERT... YOU GAVE  
LAPE EVERY CHANCE! IT'S OUT OF  
YOUR HANDS NOW!



THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF

# Jim Bowie

## RIVER BEND RENEGADES

THE TOWN OF RIVER BEND IS WILD WITH EXCITEMENT  
ONE MORNING AS THE FIRST WHEEL-STEAMER  
ARRIVES AT THEIR DOCK...

WHOO-EE! WHOO-EE!

HERE SHE COMES,  
SHERIFF! IT'S A GREAT  
DAY FOR RIVER BEND!

RIVER BEND WELCOMES  
THE ESMERALDA

YESSIR, JIM! THE  
"ESMERALDA" IS GOING  
TO PUT OUR TOWN ON  
THE MAP!



WITH RIVER  
COMMERCE, THERE'LL  
BE NEW OPPORTUNITY  
FOR EVERYONE!

ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE SHIPPER  
WITH NERVE ENOUGH TO DOBBLE  
THE SAND BARS AND RUD REEFS  
THAT MAKE THIS PART OF THE  
RIVER DANGEROUS!

AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING...  
I FORGOT IT'D BE OL' CAP  
TOMKINS! HE'S THE BEST  
RIVERFRONT MAN ON THE  
MISSISSIPPI!

YOU'LL GET  
NO ARGUMENT  
FROM ME ON  
THAT!







THERE ARE TWO MEN, HOWEVER, WHO SMILE AT THE PROCEEDINGS WITH SOMETHING LESS THAN JUBILATION...

THERE'S THE COMPETITION, WARD! AND IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE AWAY MOST OF MY BUSINESS!



YEAH! IT'S A SHAME... BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

MAYBE... BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING, WARD... I'M GOING TO TRY!



THAT NIGHT...

QUITE A DAY FOR YOU, EN, CAPT?

YOU BET, JIM! BROOK SO MANY HANDS MY ARMS ABOUT TO FALL OFF!



THOSE LANDLUBBERS WHO SAID I COULDN'T URGE THE 'GENERAL' THROUGH CAN EAT THEIR WORDS NOW! CAPT TOWERS CAN REAR THIS RIVER JUST LIKE IT HAD SNAGS ALONG THE WAY!



YOU SURE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING BUSINESS, CAP! THIS LOWER SECTION OF LOUISIANA NEEDS SOME FAST TRANSPORTATION UP TO NEW ORLEANS!

WELL, I'M HERE, BOY! I'LL TELL THEM AND THEIR GOODS FOR A FAIR PRICE!



GUESS TO BETTER GET SOME REST!  
GOT A BIG DAY TOMORROW! LOTS OF  
WORK TO BE DONE ABOVE WE HEAD  
BACK UP RIVER!

SO THERE IS!  
SLEEP WELL, CAP!



I ALWAYS SLEEP WELL WITH A BOAT  
UNDER ME! NEVER COULD FIGURE HOW  
YOU FELLAS CAN SLEEP SOUND ON  
DRY LAND!

GUESS  
WE'RE JUST  
LANDLUBBERS  
LIKE THE REST,  
CAP!



AS CAP MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO HIS  
BOAT, A SHADOWNY FIGURE FOLLOWS HIM.



AND SURENLY...

WHA—?



ABOARD THE "EMERALD," ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS SEES WHAT IS HAPPENING...



SOMEBODY'S ATTACKING THE CAPTAIN!

THIS IS JUST A WARNING, CAPTAIN! YOU BRING THAT BOAT OF YOURS TO RIVER BEND AGAIN AND YOU'LL GET WORSE!



JOHN AND THE SHERIFF, ATTRACTED BY THE CLANGING BELL, JOIN THE MEN WHO RUSH TO CAPTAIN'S AID...



THERE HE GOES! AFTER HIM!

YOU ALL RIGHT, CAPT?

BRUNGED UP IS ALL! NOBODY'S GONNA SCARE ME OFF, SHERIFF!



LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE IN RIVER BEND WHO DOESN'T WANT THE "EMERALD" COMING HERE!

THE ONLY PERSON I CAN THINK OF WHO **WOULDN'T** BENEFIT FROM THE STEAMBOAT IS JOE RUSSELL... BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS!



30. THE NEXT DAY...

BELIEVE ME, BOYS... I'M AS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO CAP AS YOU ARE!

LOOKS LIKE THE "ESMERALDA" WILL HURT YOUR FIGHTING BUSINESS, RUSSELL! CAP CAN HANDLE A LOT OF PRODUCE BOUND FOR NEW ORLEANS!

OF PRODUCE BOUND FOR NEW ORLEANS!

THAT'S TRUE... BUT I'LL STILL BE CARRYING COTTON AND SUGAR CANE TO THE RIVER FROM INLAND! WHO AM I TO TRY TO STOP PROGRESS?

THEN YOU DON'T HOLD ANY HARD FEELINGS?



OF COURSE NOT! IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

YEAH! WE WILL!

SATISFIED, JIM?

NO! RUSSELL IS JUST TOO AGREEABLE! IT DOESN'T SOUND ON THE LEVEL!



LATER THAT SAME DAY, THE "ESMERALDA" PULLS AWAY FROM THE DOCK... STARTING THE RETURN JOURNEY UP THE RIVER...

HURRY BACK, CAP!



THAT CAP' IS QUITE A MAN! TOOK A BEATING LAST NIGHT...AND LOOK AT HIM NOW, JUST AS DETERMINED AS EVER!

CAP'S NOT THE GUTTING KIND, SHERIFF! WHEN HE GETS BACK, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD DO ANY HARM, IF YOU AND I KIND OF KEPT AN EYE ON HIM...AND THE "ESMERALDA"!



A FEW DAYS LATER, CAP AND THE "ESMERALDA" RETURN TO RIVER BEND...

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW! THE "ESMERALDA" IS HERE TO STAY!



BUT, THAT NIGHT, AT JIM'S INSISTENCE, GUARDS ARE POSTED...

EVENIN', MR. BOWIE!

EVENIN'...



POORCONE, JIM... YOU'D THINK I'D NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE BEFORE! I DON'T NEED PROTECTION!

YOU'RE A VALUABLE MAN TO ALL OF US, CAP! WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO YOU!



MEANWHILE... IT'S NO USE, BOSS! BOWIE AND THE SHERIFF HAVE GUARDS POSTED ON THE DOCK! WE CAN'T GET NEAR THE CAPTAIN!

LOOKS LIKE THAT OLD FOOL JUST WENT GOING TO BE SCARED OFF! THAT JUST LEAVES ME ONE CHOICE!





AS THE SHERIFF HEADS BACK TO HIS OFFICE...

THAT'S WADE... ONE OF RUSSELL'S  
MEN! I WONDER WHAT IN TARNATION  
HE'S RIDIN' OUT OF TOWN FOR...  
AND WITH TWO  
HORSES!



MOMENTS LATER...

MAYBE I'D  
BETTER FOLLOW  
HIM JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE  
SIDE! COULD BE THAT JIM  
IS REALLY ON TO  
SOMETHING!



HOURS LATER, THE 'EMERALDA' APPROACHES A DANGEROUS BEND IN THE RIVER...

HERE'S WHERE THE MUD REEFS  
START, JIM! ONCE WE GET THROUGH  
THEM, WE'RE SAFE THE REST OF  
THE WAY!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE AT  
THE HELM, CAP, I'M NOT  
WORRIED A BIT!



AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE RIVERBANK NEARBY...

WELL... LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER'S GOING  
TO HAPPEN IS GOING TO HAPPEN RIGHT  
HERE!



I'VE GOT TO WORK  
FAST! WE'RE ALMOST  
INTO THE REEFS!



THE CLANG OF THE  
EMERGENCY BELL  
ALERTS EVERYONE  
ON BOARD...



TROUBLE, JIM!  
WOULD BETTER SEE  
WHAT'S GOING ON!  
IF I LEAVE THE  
WHEEL, WE'LL NEVER  
MAKE IT THROUGH!

WHAT'S  
HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE  
IT'S IN THE ENGINE ROOM!



IN THE WHEELHOUSE, CAP STEERS THE BOAT  
THROUGH THE REEFS, UNWARE THAT HE IS  
IN DANGER...



AND SUDDENLY...

HOW TO GET OFF THE  
BOAT AND MEET NICK  
ON THE BANK!



RUSSELL HEADS FOR THE ROIL TO JUMP... BUT JIM  
SPOTS HIM...

WOLD IT,  
RUSSELL!







MEANWHILE, ON THE RIVERBANK...

STAND RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, WAGE!  
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THAT  
STEAMBOAT, YOU'LL HAVE SOME  
TALL EXPLAINING TO DO!



JIM AND RUSSELL BATTLE FURIOUSLY  
ABOARD THE STEAMBOAT...



JIM RUSHES INTO THE WHEELHOUSE...



JIM QUICKLY GRABS THE WHEEL AND  
TURNS HARD...



THE STEAMBOAT STARTS TO TURN...



WITH JUST INCHES TO SPARE, THE  
"ESMERALDA" TURNS INTO SAFE WATERS...



LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH RUSSELL'S  
PLAN, WADE... BUT ONE THING SURE, YOU'LL BOTH SPEND  
TIME IN THE LOCKUP FOR TRYING IT!



AND LATER, AS THE "ESMERALDA" APPROACHES NEW  
ORLEANS...

WE'D HAVE BEEN STUCK ON THAT  
MUD REEF FOR A WEEK IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN  
US THROUGH! AND  
I'D HAVE LOST  
EVERYTHING IF I  
HAD TO MAKE THAT  
CONTRACT GOOD!

WELL, THANKS, CAP!  
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT  
YOU'D ADMIT I WAS  
ANYTHING BUT A  
LANDLUBBER!



A PLEDGE



TO PARENTS

*The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.*

# A SHIRT FOR Jim Bowie



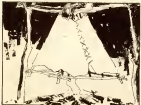
In pioneer days, clothes were made from the materials provided by nature. Jim Bowie's favorite shirts were of buckskin, and he was an expert in its preparation. His first step was to remove the skin of a deer and soak it at the bottom of a stream for three or four days.



After the pliable skin had been taken from the water, Jim sprinkled ashes or lye across its surface to condition the hair for easy removal. The scraping was quickly done with a special, curved blade.



When the skin was clean and smooth, Jim stretched it by nailing it to the side of a building or by placing it on a special hide-stretching frame to dry. There it awaited the all-important tanning process.



For purposes of tanning, Jim sewed the skin into the shape of a cone and suspended it over a fire of cedar or oak chips. The smoke closed the pores and conditioned the skin so it would remain soft at all times.



Finally, he gave the finished skin to his mother. She fashioned it into a shirt for him. The decorative fringes of leather on the sleeves served as material for numerous tying and mending jobs.

# THOSE BOISTEROUS BOWIES



Jim Bowie and his brother, Rezin, spent their early years in the Louisiana bayou country. Even before the fame of the Bowie knife spread across the United States, they were famous around home for their wild exploits. One of their favorite pastimes was riding wild horses.



One time, the Bowie brothers made an Indian canoe called a "pirogue" by burning out the center of half a log. They were then able to go exploring in the back country where Indian tribes still roamed, half-wild.



The most dangerous pastime of Jim and Rezin was roping bears. The bears were tough customers, and unless the boys roped the animals from opposite sides, the bears would quickly pursue their tormentors.



Jim Bowie's father wanted him to learn the operation of the plantation. Jim worked, cutting sugar cane and harvesting cotton. He even spent part of his time working in a nearby community sawmill.



It was not all play for "those wild Bowie boys," as their neighbors called them. Mrs. Bowie made certain that her sons were well educated, and she spent many hours teaching them history, reading, and writing.